



VALPARAISO®
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 26, 2010

The Honorable Richard Lugar
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

As President of Valparaiso University (VU), I am writing to ask for your support with a vital funding need for Valparaiso University and Northern Indiana. This project will serve to expand the access to nursing education in Indiana and will support the economic health of the region.

KRETZMANN HALL

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As you may know, VU is a private comprehensive university, and has been named one of the top regional universities in the Midwest in for the past 21 consecutive years. VU offers 70 fields of study to approximately 4,000 students. Founded in 1859, VU has established an exceptionally strong cohesion of academic programs with a targeted integration of professional and liberal arts programs. A focus on teaching has long been one of VU's hallmarks. It is this commitment to teaching that has produced exceptional hands-on learning opportunities for VU undergraduates, particularly in the fields of Engineering and Nursing.

In order to address the growing need for highly trained nurses and clinical faculty in Indiana, VU is expanding the accessibility of the DNP program in order to make the program widely accessible to students throughout the state. Currently, half of VU undergraduate nursing students and nearly 90 percent of VU graduate nursing students are residents of Indiana.

The VU College of Nursing is the only nursing program in Northwestern Indiana to develop a practice doctorate designed to prepare expert nurse practitioners who are also qualified to serve as clinical faculty. Utilizing a hybrid approach featuring a combination of on-line courses and hands-on clinical experience, the VU program removes geography as a barrier to participation.

The College of Nursing will acquire state-of-the-art simulation equipment, instructional software, and other essential scientific equipment necessary to expand the opportunities for online education and hands-on clinical training experiences for greater numbers of nursing students.

For the College of Nursing, VU seeks a federal investment of \$750,000 from either the HRSA or FIPSE accounts of the FY 11 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill. VU will add a private contribution of \$1,158,000 to reach the total budget of \$1,908,000.

I would appreciate your assistance in making these requests a priority on your appropriations funding request list. I have asked Elizabeth Pittman (reachable at 202.912.8623) to follow up. Thank you for your consideration of these important projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Heckler', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Heckler
President